United Nations E/CN.17/2009/L.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 May 2009

Original: English

Commission on Sustainable Development
Seventeenth session
16 May 2008 and 4-15 May 2009

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Tania Valerie **Raguž** (Croatia)

Chapter __
Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its seventeenth session on 16 May 2008 and from 4 to 15 May 2009. The Commission held __ plenary meetings. Working Group I held ___ meetings and Working Group II held ___ meetings. The Commission also held a number of associated activities and side events.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2009, the Chairperson, Gerda Verburg (Netherlands), opened the session and made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

4. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Mexico (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Rio Group) and Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States).

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 May 2009, statements were made by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Arab States), the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), the United States of America, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Israel and the observer for Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States).

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Palestine.

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7. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; children and youth; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; the scientific and technological community; and farmers.

B. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting, on 16 May 2008, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Gerda **Verburg** (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman:
Javad **Amin-Mansour** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2009, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Vice-Chairpersons:
Kaire Munionganda **Mbuende** (Namibia)
Tania Valerie **Raguž** (Croatia)
Ana **Bianchi** (Argentina)

10. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that Tania Valerie Raguž (Croatia) would also assume the responsibilities of Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organization of work

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2009, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its seventeenth session, as contained in document E/CN.17/2009/1, and approved its organization of work, as outlined in annex I thereto. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session:
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission heard presentations on the outcomes of intersessional events by: Javad Amin Mansour, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the outcome of the Capacity Development Workshop for Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water-use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods; Kaire Munionganda Mbuende, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission (Namibia), on the outcome of the African high-level regional meeting on the theme "African agriculture in the twenty-first century: meeting the challenges, making a sustainable green revolution"; and Ilan Fluss (Israel), on the outcome of the intersessional seminar entitled "The role of native and desert-adapted species for the purpose of slowing desertification".

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, presentations were made by the following representatives of the regional commissions: Masakazu Ichimura, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Josue Dione, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa; Marianne Schaper, Sustainable Development Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Marco Keiner, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, Economic Commission for Europe; and Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

14. At the same meeting, an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the regional commissions was held, during which comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Kyrgyzstan, and the observers for Lebanon, Grenada and Iraq. A concluding statement was made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in his capacity as coordinator of the regional commissions.

D. Attendance

15. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants will be issued in document E/CN.17/2009/INF/1.

E. Documentation

16. The documents before the Commission at its seventeenth session are posted on the website of the Division for Sustainable Development at www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docucsd_17.shtml.